

State Department review completed

Approved For Release 2003/08/18 : CIA-RDP80B01676R004200020015-0

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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SENT TO: Ambassador, LONDON (by pouch)
Ambassador, PARIS (by pouch)

RPTD INFO: Ambassador, MOSCOW (by pouch)

London's 2205, repeated Moscow 68, Paris 2207, regarding follow-up on East West contacts post Geneva.

Department appreciates report on Paul Grey's thinking on East-West contacts problems. We believe presentation by West at Geneva on East-West item, and negative stand taken by USSR, resulted in propaganda advantage for Western powers. It appears to us that it would be advisable press this advantage in coming months by taking up on bilateral basis with the Soviets certain of the specific projects mentioned in 17-point Western memorandum of October 31. Such action would provide not only good propaganda record if needed at later date but demonstrate to Soviets and world we were sincere in tabling projects for Geneva consideration. Department has in mind representations on following points:

1. Expanded exchange of nonofficial books, periodicals, and newspapers. (Second part of point 4 of October 31 memorandum dealing with public sales would be held in abeyance.)
2. Improved exchange of government publications, catalogues, etc.
3. Negotiations by US film producers with Soviet organization for distribution US films in USSR (action here is responsibility film producers).
4. Exchange of exhibitions.
5. Exchange of limited number of officially sponsored reciprocal visits by experts in various fields.
6. Reduction in travel restrictions on members diplomatic missions (action on this should probably be in form of agreed tripartite approach).

Timing and exact form approaches would take on these points remain to be decided. It is possible, although unlikely, results Communist party Congress in February may indicate desirability reviewing our whole position on these points.

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Re point 6 above, exchange of expert groups, US made approach in Moscow during Geneva Conference suggesting that consultations be held in Washington between Department and Soviet Embassy representatives to plan out exchanges in certain fields, for example, agriculture and medicine, for one-year period. No repeat no answer this approach. If no repeat no answer received in near future, we are contemplating pressing point with Soviets, indicating more clearly what ideas we have in mind.

In agriculture, we are thinking of exchange of perhaps 5 groups during one year period, each group to be small (three or four persons), and composed of technically competent individuals drawn from both government and private life. Each US group would specialize in study those areas Soviet agriculture of most interest to US. Roughly same pattern would hold for medicine exchanges. We would stress technical, professional nature these visits and endeavor keep publicity and ceremonial aspects to minimum.

In addition these exchanges, believe we will probably wish to propose to Soviets (apart from consultations on one-year programs in agriculture and medicine) a few exchanges in other fields of high priority intelligence interest to US (e.g. petroleum, transport, plastics).

As we see it, exchanges with Soviet Union will continue, despite disappointing results Geneva Conference, since Soviet interest in gaining technical know-how and in reaping propaganda benefits from performances of its cultural artists abroad will not repeat, not diminish. (Soviets have accepted Amerika magazine, and have made proposal recently for student exchange.) We do not repeat not believe would be advisable for us to attempt to stop exchanges, since this would be contrary US position favoring greater contacts and would have adverse propaganda effect. Also, there are intelligence gains to be achieved for West through carefully planned contacts, and hope that increased contacts will give Soviet officials more rational appreciation of Western viewpoints and will promote evolutionary process in Soviet Union over the long years.

In view of these considerations, we feel it is in our interest to (1) take initiative in promoting those types of exchanges we are interested in, and (2) attempt to conduct such exchanges on basis carefully thought out plans.

Re exchange cultural groups between US and USSR, such activity will continue without governmental stimulus, although selected visits by Americans when deemed in national interest will be positively

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encouraged to insure representative presentation US culture. Department, to extent practicable, will attempt provide guidance for privately initiated efforts. Pending any change in fingerprinting requirement, or even afterwards, except in selected instances, we do not view with favor idea large cultural groups touring Soviet Union, since problem reciprocity would post difficulties (doubtful if large Soviet dance group, for example, could be given official visas). Same considerations pertinent re sport exchanges.

Above may be used in your discretion in discussions with Foreign Offices London and Paris. We would be interested in any views they may have. You should indicate Department anxious continue close cooperation and mutual exchange views on East-West contacts with UK and France which was established in course preparations for and conduct of Geneva CFM.

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